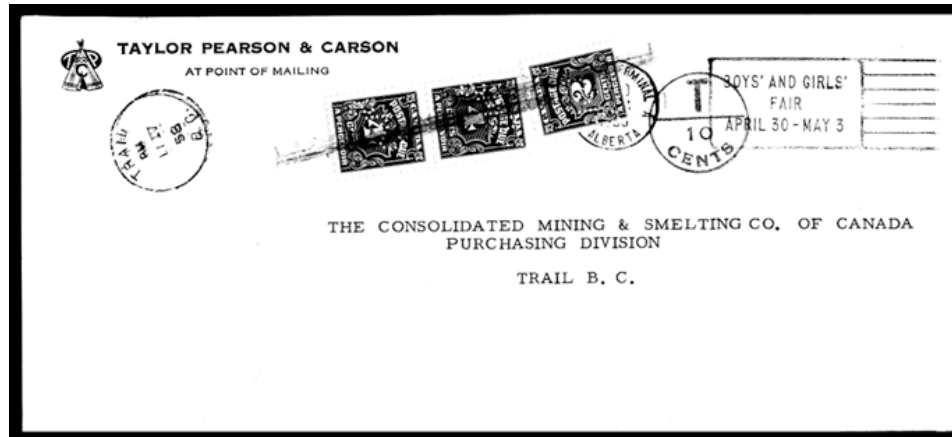


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## Perfins as Postal History - #7

### Postage Due Perfins?

By Rudy Roy (1124)



Upon seeing the illustrated cover on eBay, I immediately reached for my Canadian perfins Catalog to see if this use was listed. To my surprise, in Addendum J there is a listing of postage due stamps with perfins known to have been used by this company.

Pattern C38 (C/M/S) was used by the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Canada, Ltd., Trail, British Columbia. Use of the pattern is known on postage stamps, too, but it is the only recorded use of perfins on postage due stamps. It is not a scarce pattern, having a scarcity factor of "G".

The cover is straightforward. It was mailed from Edmonton, Alberta, on 'APR 10, 1958', without postage, where the handstamped postage due 10 cents marking was applied, and was received in Trail, British Columbia on 'APR 11, 1958'. In Trail the perfinned postage due stamps were applied and canceled with some type of rubber handstamp in magenta or red. This usage would indicate that the company was provided with mint postage due stamps in which it then applied its perfin pattern. When unpaid or short paid mail was received, the mail clerk had a supply of perfinned postage due stamps which, on picking up the mail, he applied to pay the shortage in postage.

What I have not been able to determine is how

Consolidated Mining was able to obtain mint postage due stamps, apply the company's perfins, and then use them on its mail with due postage.

From this cover it would appear that sending mail to Consolidated without postage was an approved process. If this is correct, what was the authorization to do this? Sending mail without prepaying at least partial postage had been unacceptable in most UPU countries for many years.

In the Nov/Dec 1973 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin*, in the "Question Corner" feature, Mr. Perfin (Dave Stump) offered an explanation as to how postage due stamps acquired perfins. He indicated that it may have occurred when commercial short paid mail was picked up the company's mail clerk, and instead of the post office clerk applying postage due stamps to the item(s), just gave unused postage due stamps to the company clerk after he had paid the fee. Upon returning with the postage due stamps the mail room person charged with perforating "all" stamps did just that, including the postage dues. However, this was conjecture, as noted by Dave, since there was no evidence this practice ever occurred. And it does not preclude the possibility that perfins in some postage due stamps were done on a favor basis.

Since postage due stamps were never valid for the prepayment of postage, and indicated that a fee for

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short paid mail had been paid, the need to apply perfins to them really did not exist. Why, then, did this practice exist with this firm in Canada?

I would appreciate any help in determining just how and why this company could acquire unused postage

due stamps, apply their perfin to the stamps, and then use their perfined postage dues to pay for short paid mail. Contact me at P.O. Box 5367, Virginia Beach, VA 23471-0367, or email: rroyperfin@aol.com.

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